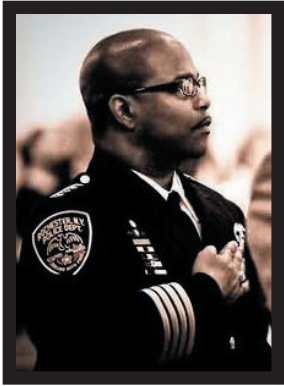


# RPD NEWS



NOVEMBER 2012

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF:



Ladies & Gentlemen,

As the fall season finally arrives, we find ourselves emerging from a very busy summer, during which you successfully navigated a variety of difficult situations, ranging from violent crimes to a significant increase in your calls for service work load. Though our overall Part 1 crime experienced a slight increase through the third quarter (Jan. - Sept.: +1.3%),

it is very important that we keep things in perspective; your work has contributed to significant Part 1 crime reductions that are near the city's 25 year lows.

I attribute a significant amount of our continued impact on crime to the enforcement and engagement efforts of the hard working men and women of this department who work diligently day in and day out. I ask that you continue being responsive, aggressive, proactive and preventive in your efforts, as that is what our community needs to feel, as well as to be, safe.

I continuously espouse a philosophy of "Policing in the Spirit of Service", with the goal of encouraging all members of the Rochester Police Department to be courteous, respectful and compassionate while interacting with the community. I cannot emphasize enough how important positive engagements are, particularly with youth. We must proactively and positively interact with youth, so that we can establish and maintain strong relationships for the future.

This process will take time; however, we must commit to creating positive engagement opportunities in order to enhance trust and collaboration with all of the Rochester community.

Chief James M. Sheppard

*Policing in the Spirit of Service*

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## WHAT AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE!

*(Excerpt from a letter to Chief Sheppard)*

When I saw the item on one of the silent auction tables at the Make-A-Wish fundraiser, I thought it would be something interesting and unique to do. "It" was a day shadowing Rochester Police Chief James Sheppard, including a ride-along in a patrol car. In fact, it was so much more than interesting and unique. It was a true learning experience—one I wish everyone could have. We have heard it said over and over that an officer puts his/her life on the line every single day to protect us. We know it with our heads, but how many of us really feel it viscerally?

I was privileged to do my ride-along with Officer Chris Sedita, and she was the perfect choice to conduct this experience. As we traveled the streets, she told me what she was doing and why: Running plates, watching for drivers sitting in idling cars (waiting to make a drug buy?), she pointed out the people hanging out in a group (maybe acting as lookouts for dealers), she could identify a dealer walking down the street. It was all such an eye-opener.

Chris spotted a broken windshield on a car in front of us, ran the plate and pulled the driver over. It turned out his license was suspended. She asked him to step out of the car, and I saw how big he was. Probably 6'1" and 300 pounds. I feared for her safety. This was when Chris showed she was the consummate professional. The difference in size was irrelevant. She controlled the situation in every way, but all along she dealt with the driver in a way that accorded him respect and caused him to be resigned and cooperative.

As it turned out, the broken windshield and suspended license were only part of the story. After he was turned over to two colleagues at the jail, then came what I am sure is every officer's favorite part of the job: All the necessary paper work relating to the arrest.

The next part of my day was a meeting with Chief Sheppard in his office, and then an opportunity to attend the Chief's PCIC (Police Citizens Interaction Committee). There were representatives from every part of the city, all working together to make a difference in the city and the lives of its residents. Their current focus will be on reducing truancy. It's a wonderful goal to be focusing on, and I applaud the Chief and these difference-makers.

My thanks go first to Chief Sheppard for donating this opportunity to the Make-A-Wish fundraiser. I hope he will continue to do so in the future, giving others this unique chance to see and learn as I did.

Thanks also to Officer Chris Sedita for being the perfect guide to the many parts of the job I could never have imagined. She shared so much knowledge with me and never let me feel that having a rider was a nuisance. I also want to thank Officer Patrick Piano for coordinating the whole day. He was on top of every detail, up to and including making sure my car was in the right place at the end of the day.

I will never again take for granted the presence of these brave officers in our towns and cities. The phrase "Every day they put their lives on the line to keep us safe" is so much more to me now than just a phrase. I have a much greater understanding of the work the police do and the risks that are involved.

*Pat Gilges*

# RPD NEWS

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## PAL ACTIVITY UPDATE



### PAL HALLOWEEN SAFETY EVENT

On October 26th, volunteers from the Rochester Police Activities League (PAL) traveled to three City Schools: School #1, #9 and #57 to discuss Halloween safety, and hand out treats to kindergarteners, first and second graders.



The event was a big hit with both the officers and the kids. Thank you to the following officers for volunteering: Inv. Otto Harnischfeger, Off. Matt Carpenter, Off. Julie Hill, Off. Erin Rogers, Off. Mike Ciulla, Sgt. Joe Laiosa, Sgt. Lazlo Tordai, Off. Whitney Unrath and Off. Tom Lisle. Your visit made such a tremendous impact on such a special group of kids.

## A HISTORY OF ENGAGEMENT—1978



Sgt. L. DeWolf of Maple Section in new fleet replacement: 1978 Chevy Nova



# RPD NEWS

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## “MEET THE RPD”

*In this section we will feature individual members of the Department, highlighting their careers and interests, both on and off the job.*



### **INVESTIGATOR GARY GALETTA** **MAJOR CRIMES UNIT/HOMICIDE**

#### **My Career:**

I started my Law Enforcement career in 1980, as a part-time Parks Deputy for the MCSO, before being hired by the RPD in 1982. I worked Goodman Section, first platoon for a year before going to the prized fourth platoon. I'm a night man by heart, and I loved those hours.

This period of my career was, by far, the most enjoyable time of my uniformed patrol assignment. In 1986 I had the opportunity to work narcotics in the vice squad. I stayed a year in that assignment before returning to Goodman Section.

I was appointed Investigator in 1990. For the next seven years I worked third platoon in what was then one of the more violent neighborhoods in the city. In the summer of 1997, Sgt. Mark Merklinger called me and asked if I'd be interested in doing a temporary assignment in the Homicide Unit. I honestly never even considered working in Homicide. So I did a 60 day stint. Then they asked me to do 60 more. That's when I got bit by the bug. I ended up coming back permanently about six months later.

#### **Why did you want a career with the Rochester Police Department?**

Policing was a childhood dream. It became a lifelong ambition. As a child, family friends were Rochester cops, and I wanted to be just that. I believe there is something satisfying about holding someone accountable for a heinous act. To a lesser degree, I also feel a need to maintain some sense of order in a lawless society.

#### **Tell me about a time in your career when you were most proud to be a member of the RPD?**

There are many proud moments in my career: The day I was told I got the job, the day I was sworn in, the day I graduated from the academy...to name a few. When I think back, there were so many jobs, or cases, or outcomes I'm proud of, that there are too many to mention. I will say that I'm proud of the many fellow officers I've had the privilege to work closely with over the years. I should add that I'm very proud with each and every time I get to tell some family that we've arrested someone in their loved one's homicide. I also take a more selfish pride on conviction and sentence day!

#### **What are some things you like to do when you're off duty?**

I most like being with my two daughters. This job has affected some of the quality time I've been able to spend with them, and you realize too late that they grow up much faster than you comprehend. As for things I enjoy to do, I really like to play golf. Although I haven't done much of it recently, I love the game.

# RPD



# NEWS

**NOVEMBER 2012**

## **CHIEF'S ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Chief's Fall/Winter 2012-2013 Advisory Council consists of 11 members currently assigned to the Patrol Divisions and Tactical Unit. Members will include one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, one Investigator and one Officer from both PDE and PDW, and one officer from the Tactical and Administration Unit. Each representative to the Advisory Council will be a cornerstone to the effort to infuse the "Culture of Excellence" mentality.

Members are selected to provide the Chief honest feedback, facilitate networking and the exchange of ideas, provide ideas and to suggest ways of enhancing employee satisfaction and work effectiveness. The Advisory Council will not involve itself with trying to resolve work-related issues pertaining to individual employees. Employees with personal issues or complaints should seek resolution through appropriate management channels, in accordance with departmental policy. Advisory Council members will serve six to seven month terms on a rotating basis.

The 2012-2013 Fall/Winter Advisory Council will serve from October through March, meeting every four to six weeks. Advisory Council members will help the Chief promote "Policing in the Spirit of Service."

Members of the Chief's 2012-2013 Fall/Winter Advisory Council include: Lt. Jeremy Lindauer, Sgt. Michael Horn, Inv. Scott Ferro, Off. Justin Stewart., Lt. Cheryl Fridley, Sgt. Adam Devincentis, Inv. Justin Havill, Off. Michael Sippel, Off. Timothy Gourlay, Off. Patrick Hickey, Off. Alison Gilday.



## **THE ROCHESTER POLICE FOUNDATION**

On May 1, 2012, the newly formed Rochester Police Foundation Board of Directors held its inaugural meeting, bringing together local business and civic leaders with the common goal of lending their service and support to the Rochester Police Department.



Since then, the Foundation has been meeting monthly, focused on raising funds and community awareness on behalf of the RPD. Key areas of support provided by the Foundation include: Obtaining new technologies, equipment, and training to support RPD operations, youth and community outreach programs, projects and research efforts to guide improvements in the RPD's delivery of service and assisting families of fallen officers.

Officers of the Foundation Board are: President, Dennis Kessler; Treasurer, Tim Tompkins; Secretary, Shelly Dinan. Other Foundation members include Tom Bonfiglio, Josey Boscarino, Rev. James Cherry Sr., Paul Ciminelli, Derek Dalton, Mark Gestring, George Heisel, Bruce Philpott, Charles Price, Miguel Reyes, and Mary Whittier.

In September, Mr. Kessler presented the Foundation's first gift to the RPD—a check for \$1,050 to help support the Gun Buy Back initiative. The Gun Buy Back resulted in the removal of 173 weapons off of the streets.

The Foundation's first major fundraiser will be held April 20, 2013. Watch for more details about this event.

Tax deductible donations to the Rochester Police Foundation, [a 501 (c) (3)], can be made by check mailed to: 206 Park Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607.



**NOVEMBER 2012**

## RPD CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY #21

The RPD held its 21st Citizen's Police Academy (C.P.A.) at the Monroe County Public Safety Training Facility. The C.P.A. commenced on July 10, 2012 and concluded with a graduation ceremony on September 18, 2012. Twenty members of the Rochester community took part in this year's C.P.A.



The C.P.A. program was established by the RPD in 1992. The program was developed to provide better understanding of police policies and procedures for members of the community who, in turn, can educate other citizens. The objective of the academy is to show that working together toward common goals can make for a safer community.

Attendees participated in several lectures that included an overview of responsibilities for the Department's divisions and special sections. Other topics of discussion included: Defensive tactics, unarmed defense and force continuum, firearms home safety, crime scene management, the police recruit hiring process and academy training. Attendees also participated in role plays in the areas of domestic violence, vehicle stops and basic tactical management board exercises.



Upon graduation, attendees returned to the community with greater knowledge and a unique perspective of the Rochester Police Department. This increased familiarity and interaction helps to improve police-community relations by recognizing the partnership between the citizens and their police department.

Citizen's Police Academy Class #21 attendees were: William Bartlett, Valerie Bishop, Josey Boscarino, Marisa Cameron, Joseph Civiletti, Thomas Ellis, Otelia Gantt, Patricia Gross, Gary Hallinen, Jonnie Hobbs, Kayla Jenkins, Marilee Ann Krist, Laura Phonharath, Stella Rainge, Luis Santos, Cathy Smith, Kenneth Williams, Bridget Williams and Betty Northrup.

## CHIEF SHEPPARD CO-RECIPIENT OF 2012 HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Rochester Boxing Hall of Fame has selected both Chief James Sheppard and Monroe County Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn as co-recipients of the 2012 Richard Warboys Humanitarian Award. The award is in memory of the late Richard Warboys, past vice president of the boxing organization.

The Rochester Boxing Hall of Fame honored both Chief Sheppard and Sheriff O'Flynn for their actions as "First Responder Leaders", making a big and positive difference in our community and enriching all citizens with a better quality of life.

The organization describes a first responder as possessing great courage, because they never know what they will have to face when they respond to an emergency and know their life will be at risk.



## WE PRODUCE LEADERS

*Over the years, the Rochester Police Department has developed a national reputation for excellence due in large part to the tremendous talent, commitment and innovative thinking exhibited by those who have worn the uniform of the Rochester Police Department. The "We Produce Leaders" series highlights RPD alumni who have gone on from the Department to continue serving the community in a variety of leadership roles. We hope these articles inspire current RPD members and demonstrate the many ways that the skills and professionalism gained as a RPD officer benefits the community for a lifetime.*



### **RETIRED LIEUTENANT ROBERT H. KENNEDY**

During his career with the RPD, Robert was an officer in Highland Section 3rd and 4th platoons, a sergeant in Genesee 1st and 4th, and Lake 2nd platoons, and a lieutenant in Highland 3rd, Genesee 2nd and Professional Development Section.

#### **DESCRIBE A HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR CAREER IN RPD AND HOW THAT SHAPED YOUR FUTURE:**

The one area that shaped my future was becoming involved in training as a General Topics, Domestic Violence, and Defensive Tactics Instructor. This opened the door for me to teach at the Basic Recruit Academy, Police Supervision School, and In-Service.

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE YOUR RETIREMENT:**

As I moved along in my RPD career, I thought ahead as to what I wanted to do when I retired. My second career goal was to obtain a faculty position at Monroe Community College. Based on my RPD experience both in Law Enforcement and teaching, I was fortunate enough to achieve that goal. I have been at MCC since my retirement. I am serving in my second year as the Chair of Law and Criminal Justice.

#### **ADVICE THAT YOU WOULD GIVE TO THE OFFICERS CURRENTLY ON THE JOB:**

You need to plan well ahead for what you want to do when you retire. In other words, establish a post-retirement goal. My position at MCC required a Master's Degree, so I was able to return to college part-time and obtain my degree well in advance of my retirement. I was also hired as an adjunct faculty member, providing me the opportunity to teach one course per semester. This gave me the chance to work on the skills needed to teach an entirely different population under the guidance of the full-time faculty.

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## NOVEMBER SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

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Thomas W. Walton .....	30	Cuyler H. Mooney .....	20
Frank Alberti .....	25	Thomas A. Motsay .....	20
Edward A. Alberto .....	20	Scott L. Peters .....	20
Daniel D. Carlson .....	20	Kevin Radke .....	20
Adam H. Correia .....	20	David M. Smith .....	20
John F. Divincenzo .....	20	Robert L. Snow .....	20
Bernnie Garcia .....	20	Frank R. Umbrino .....	20
David Gebhardt .....	20	Angel A. Vazquez .....	20
Joseph L. Graham .....	20	David J. Williams .....	20
Laura B. Grande .....	20	Herbert H. McClellan .....	20
David A. Joseph .....	20	Chantriss O. King .....	5
Hoang M. Kavanaugh .....	20	Lisa M. Muratore .....	5

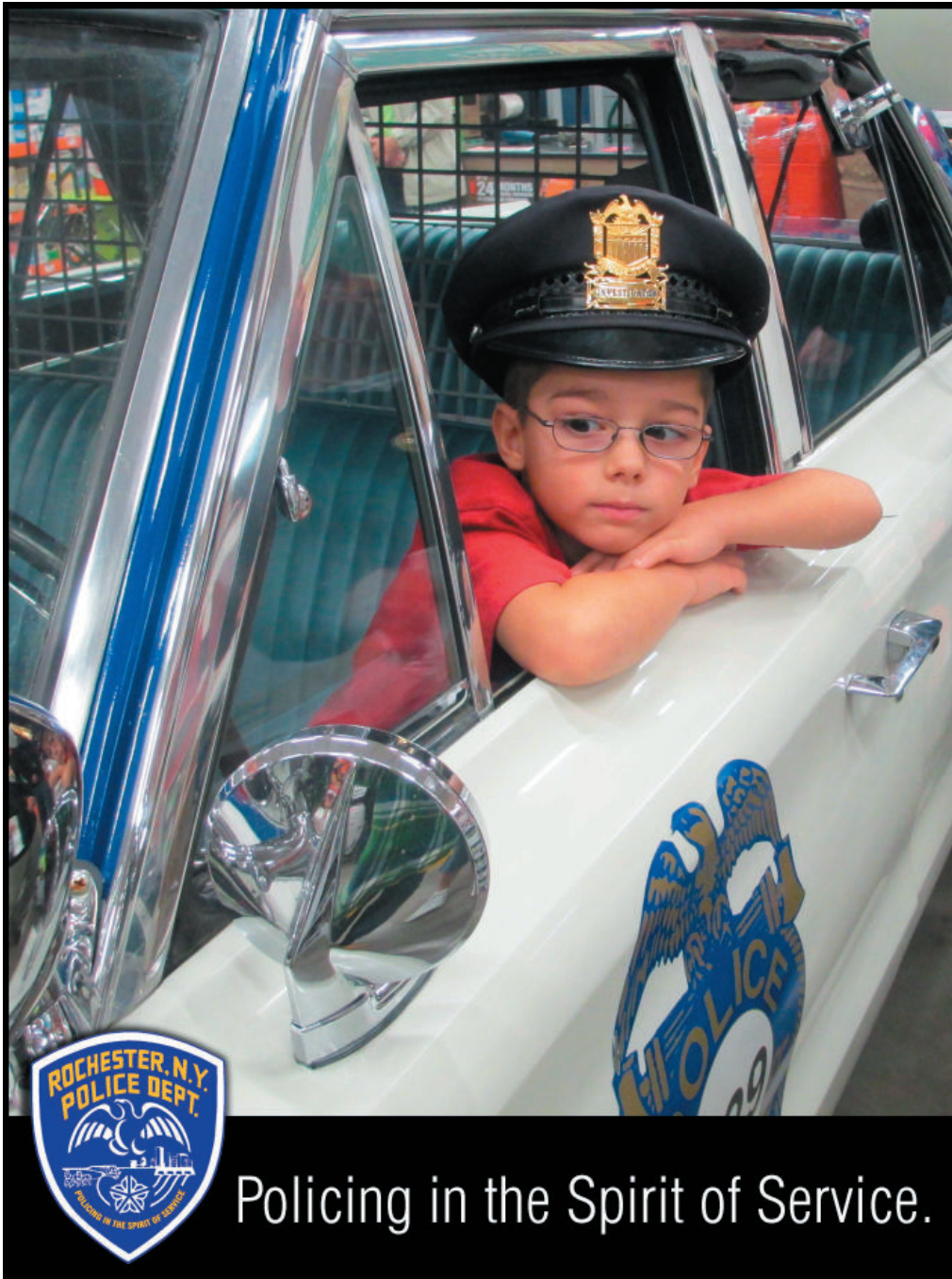


**CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS #24!**



# RPD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2012



Policing in the Spirit of Service.

*Safety Day at Home Depot featured a 1966 RPD patrol vehicle.*